The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

AGITATE ORGANIZE EDUCATE

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Labor Mission to Russia Disowned By A. F. of L. Executive Council

Washington, July 10.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor has issued a warning against the sending of a so-called labor mission from the United States to visit Soviet Russia in the name of American labor.

"The attention of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor has been directed to certain activities which are being put forth by some labor men and others to form a commission to be composed of representatives of organized labor for the express purpose of visiting Soviet Russia, and incidentally other nations in Europe, for the ostensible purpose of making an investigation of economic, industrial, social and political conditions," declares the Council.

"In order to correct any wrong impression which might prevail among the membership of organized labor and within the public mind regarding the formation of such a commission, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor deems it advisable to issue the following statement:

"The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor is opposed to the formation of any commission, composed of labor representatives, having for its purpose a visit to Russia, and incidentally other European countries, unless authorized to do so by the American Federation of Labor.

"We do not feel that any good purpose could be served through such action. In fact, we seriously doubt the good faith of such a self-constituted commission. We can not believe that any representative or officer of organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor will accept membership upon such a commission.

"Under no circumstances can we approve or look with favor upon the action of any officer or representative of an organization affiliated with the American Federation of Labor who would accept membership upon such a commission. We are grieved to learn that a number of officers and members of organized labor have given invitations to serve on this proposed commission.

"This opposition of the Executive Council to such a commission going to Soviet Russia is based upon the fact that no tribunal of the A. F. of L. has authorized the creation of a labor commission to visit Russia or any other countries in Europe.

"Only last October a convention of the American Federation of Labor held in Atlantic City, had considered the question of investigating the situation in Russia and by a practically unanimous vote declared itself in opposition to such a proposal.

"No situation has arisen which would seem to require a change in policy on the part of the American Federation of Labor.

"Until such a change takes place it becomes the duty of both the Executive Council and the officers and members of the American Federation of Labor to carry out the decision of the Atlantic City convention of the American Federation of Labor.

"If this course is followed no officer, member or representative of organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor will accept appointment upon the Russian labor commission which is now being formed for the purpose of visiting Russia and other European countries. The cost of sending a commission to Russia would be great. It would require a substantial sum of money with which to pay the expenses of a commission. Where would the money come from to visit Soviet Russia and why such action is being taken under the auspices and approval of the American Federation of Labor.

"Until such time as the American Federation of Labor, through its legally constituted tribunals, creates a commission and clothes it with authority to visit Russia and other European countries, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor will oppose the formation of any self-constituted commission which would assume to represent labor and to create the impression that it speaks for labor, while failing in Soviet Russia and other European countries.

"The members of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor are curious to know why an attempt is being made at this time to create a commission of labor representatives to visit Soviet Russia and why such action is being taken without the authority and approval of the American Federation of Labor.

"We do not feel that any good purpose could be served through such action. In fact, we seriously doubt the good faith of such a self-constituted commission. We can not believe that any representative or officer of organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor will accept membership upon such a commission.

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"We can not, under any circumstances, approve the action of any officer or representative of any organization affiliated with the American Federation of Labor in undertaking the creation or management or both of a fund for the financing of such a commission. We also likewise recommend that no affiliated unions contribute in any way to a fund for such a purpose or give aid or encouragement of any kind to such an undertaking.

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A. F. of L. Executive Council Warns Against Communist Activities and Their Strike Funds

Washington, July 10.—"The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, at a meeting held at Cincinnati, Ohio, beginning June 25, gave serious consideration not only to communistic activities among the working people in many sections of the country, but to the formation of organizations assuming to speak for labor, in the name of labor, and which the Executive Council believes are communistic in make-up, in principle and in purpose," declares a statement by the Council addressed to "all organized labor."

"We regard these organizations as well as others of a communistic nature and character, as dangerous, unnecessary and without any standing in the bona fide labor movement of the country.

"For instance, facts disclose that the so-called United Front Committee which organized and is carrying on a strike in Passaic, New Jersey, has no relationship to the American Federation of Labor. The leaders of this United Front Committee are prominently identified with the communistic movement in the United States. It is reasonable to conclude, because of their relationship to the communist party that they are interested in advancing the cause of communism.

"The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor regards the organization, in charge of the strike in Passaic, New Jersey, as a dual organization. As such dual organization, no recognition can be given to it by the American Federation of Labor. We can not countenance dual organizations in the labor movement of our country.

"The United Front Committee, at Passaic, New Jersey, has secured the collection of money for the alleged purpose of carrying on the strike among the textile workers. Much of the money contributed to this committee came from organizations and individuals directly associated with the American Federation of Labor. The condition of the labor, striking mill workers appealed to the sentiments of many of the members of organized labor, consequently they responded to the appeal for funds, in many instances, in a most generous way.

"The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, feared the sentiments of humanity, has not interfered with contributions made by members of organized labor to the relief funds to be used for the purpose of supplying food and clothing to the striking textile workers, but the American Federation of Labor is of the opinion that any contributions made by members of organized labor should be used only for the purpose of relieving distress among the striking textile workers and their families.

"For that reason all contributions made by the members of organized labor should be sent to Mr. Charles James Walsh, secretary of the Trades and Labor Council, 174 Sharman Street, Passaic, New Jersey, a bona fide federation of Labor organization. Secretary Walsh, in turn, will distribute the funds contributed by organized labor among the needy and distressed strikers and their families in Passaic and vicinity, New Jersey.

"The membership of organized labor, by making their contributions through the Trades and Labor Council, can prevent the use of aid or a part of their contributions in paying the expenses of the United Front Committee, which is associated with the communist organization and who are hostile to the American Federation of Labor, its principles and its policies.

"The membership of organized labor should not contribute funds to be used for the purpose of advancing the cause of a dual organization or to pay the salary and expenses of communist leaders who are now trying to disrupt the American Federation of Labor and the substitution of a communistic organization in its stead. Were members of organized labor to make contributions which are used by communist leaders for the advancement of communism they unwittingly perform acts which ultimately might result in economic and industrial injury to themselves.

"The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor feels that it is its duty to warn the membership of organized labor against organizations which have no authority to speak or act for the organized labor movement and which are antagonistic to the principles and policies of the American Federation of Labor.

"A number of these organizations have been formed; are parading under false colors and are receiving moneys appropriated to the themselves names which are misleading and deceiving. The representatives of these destructive organizations appeal to the membership of organized labor for money in the name of carrying forward their different projects and to pay the salaries and expenses of individuals who are engaged in trying to undermine and destroy the American Federation of Labor.

"These destructive movements result in the formation of alleged labor organizations, like unto the American Federation of Labor, are local in character and scope. They can well be classified as an expression of local discontent. This discontent is seized upon by communist leaders as a means through which the communist philosophy may be exploited. History shows that these movements have resulted not only in failure but, in most instances, in complete disaster.

"Working men and women who are suffering economic wrongs, who are the victims of injustice and whose grievances should be adjusted should not be deceived by those who seek to mobilize discontent for selfish purposes. Such organizations can not render any substantial service to working men and women.

"We suggest to the membership of organized labor that before you respond to appeals for money, made by these organizations mentioned in this statement, in the name of labor, you inquire from the offices of your national and international unions or from the officers of the American Federation of Labor regarding the standing of the organization or organizations making such appeals.

"We urge you to refrain from making contributions to any of these organizations or as individuals to any of these various so-called labor organizations not affiliated with and in accord with the Federation of Labor.

"The American Federation of Labor is the bona fide organized labor movement of this country. It speaks with authority for the working people throughout America. There is room within it for all the men and all the women within its jurisdiction.

"The door of organized labor is open to all wage earners. They are invited to be part of us.

"There is no need of dual organizations, for dual organizations only tend to weaken the virile, constructive economic strength and collective influence of the bona fide labor movement.

"The working people of America can raise their standards of life and living. Let them join the organization of their trade, industry or in any other lines of industry, by joining the bona fide organized labor movement.

"We welcome all. We urge all to join with us and help to make the achievements of the membership of those organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor as convincing evidence of what can be done for the wage earners of our country. We will join the American Federation of Labor."

Financial Assistance for British Miners Is Asked by A. F. of L.

Washington, July 10.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor has issued the following appeal to the officers and members of organized labor for financial assistance for the million locked-out coal miners and their families in Great Britain:

"In response to an official appeal issued by the officers of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain asking for aid for the families of the striking miners of Great Britain, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor decided to call upon the officers and members of all organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor for voluntary contributions for the benefit of the families of the miners who have been on strike in Great Britain for many weeks.

"The condition of the miners and their families is deplorable. Women and children are without an adequate supply of food and clothing. There is great need for help.

"The action of the Executive Council in deciding to appeal for funds was prompted by sentiments of humanity.

"It found, from an examination and consideration of all the facts that a most extraordinary, distressing condition prevails in the mining sections of Great Britain.

"The money which will be received in response to this appeal will be used exclusively for the purpose of supplying food, clothing and the necessaries of life to the miners' families who are suffering because of the long continued strike.

"We appeal to you to respond quickly and generously to this call for help. Let us help our fellow workers in Europe in their struggle against a reduction in their living standards. The cry of the women and the children must appeal to our generous sentiments. They need help and they need it now."

Send all contributions to Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, A. F. of L. Building, Washington, D. C.

Right Kind of Organization Won Technical Engineers' Strike in Chicago, Says Rosenmund

Chicago, July 10.—Over 500 technical engineers and draftsmen employed by the city of Chicago have won their strike for a 30 per cent increase in pay, which is said to be the first strike of professional engineers in the history of Chicago.

Washington, July 10.—The technical men employed by the city of Chicago, in connection with technical men in all walks of life, have for many years been seeking to secure some semblance of remuneration conforming somewhat to the value of their services," declares C. L. Rosenmund, president of the International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Unions, in a statement regarding the technical engineers and draftsmen's strike in Chicago.

"Heretofore they have been working at a distinct disadvantage by always being included in the unskilled wage groups, thus losing their identity as a distinct craft; but what was really their greatest deterrent toward making any progress was the utter disposition to hold aloof from the general labor movement, placing their reliance in other weak independent organizations.

"After several years' trial of this ineffective method the technical men employed by the city of Chicago, finally saw their mistake and came over boldly into the International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Unions, A. F. of L., by affiliating with Local No. 14 of Chicago, with the able leadership of Vice President Gilboy, who had direct charge of the Chicago situation, and with the full force of the Federation machinery, they made a determined effort to insist on a 30 per cent general increase.

"In order that there be no doubts as to their determination, a strike vote was taken should this be found necessary.

"Subsequent efforts to secure this increase in several conferences having failed, they went out on strike on June 30, and have been walking out and tying up over $10,000,000 worth of new construction and otherwise paralyzing the other engineering and construction activities of the city.

"As a result general confusion ensued in all of the city's enterprises and finally ended in a conference held by the city council. For the first time in the history of the city and after a prolonged session lasting over 14½ hours and hanging over until 4 a. m. amid much stormy debate, the recommendations of the finance committee were overruled by the council and additional funds were voted to grant the demanded increase so as to get these men back to work at once so the city might be enabled to resume normal operation.

"This victory for theory demonstrates what can be accomplished with the right kind of organization and the will to win. The new minimum rate goes from $160 to $250 a month and the new maximum advances from $196 to $300 a month. The International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Unions, together with its A. F. of L. connections, both local and national, are at the disposal of all similar groups in any other city who show the proper initiative to go forward—provided they are organized."

Trade Union Movement Founded On Labor Unity, Declares Green

"The great element in the strength of our American labor movement has been the fact that our unions rest upon a basis of common needs and problems and our rigid exclusion of all issues involving personal religion and partisan politics," declares William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in an editorial on "Labor Unity" in the American Federationist.

"Our American labor movement has declared for the organization of all workers, regardless of race, creed, sex or nationality.

"The things upon which groups of human beings agree are much fewer than those upon which they differ.

"This is a fact which makes for richness in national development and world civilization. But the rich variety has its roots in units of organized activities for the essential work of the world.

"These essential undertakings in which there is unity of interests are, in the main, vocational.

"Workers find their unit in the craft union.

"These units are concerned exclusively with production and economic problems and situations.

"There is common economic need among all wage earners which the union meets despite wide individual differences under the categories enumerated.

"This economic need is a basic one in the life and work of men.

"The right to negotiate terms of employment, adequate wages, the short workday, and good working conditions are fundamental in the realization of American standards of life.

"In the achievement of these purposes all are concerned, whatever their race, creed, sex or nationality.

"To interject issues upon which there is wide individual difference is to sow the seeds of dissension where unity is essential and at the same time to add no luster to the issue that is projected out of its proper sphere.

"The trade-union movement will gain by concentrating its energies upon labor problems and it will have a fine regard for the right of individual members to decide personal questions in accord with their own best judgment.

"The same principle is essential in the maintenance of international labor organizations and undertakings.

"There must be concentration upon national issues with cooperation for the promotion of mutual interests.

"This can not be interpreted to mean, however, that any individual or group has a right to make decisions irrespective of their effect upon others.

"We decide such matters when we regard all relations between friends and realize we are in truth our brother's keeper.

"The best interests of our American labor movement forbid deviation from the principle of labor unity upon which we have builded."

Railway Employees Approve Railroad Labor Act and Union Cooperation

Chicago, Ill., July 10.—The convention of the Railway Employes' Department of their International Association of Labor unanimously decided to give the new railroad labor act a thorough trial with the hope that it will secure justice and industrial peace on the railroads.

The convention also approved the "B. & O." scheme of employe representation in operation by the adoption of a resolution which declared that "real constructive and beneficial results have been secured through this plan." The convention's action was based on the report of the Executive Council, which held that the company union has no chance where union management operates.

"The success to date of union-management cooperation on the railroads where managements not only subscribe to the equity and propriety of recognizing the bona fide labor unions, but also cooperate with these unions and their local and national officers, effectively disposes of the arguments advanced by company union advocates in justification of their theories of 'employe representation and collective bargaining,'" declared the executive council in part. "It is a safe statement to make that fully 95 per cent of the wind has been taken out of the sails of company unionism.

"Let its advocates register with fair minded people wherever they like, as long as we adhere to our policy of genuine cooperation, in strict keeping with the principles herein set forth, company unionism can have little if any appeal to a thinking, self-respecting railroad worker in a honest, intelligent railway officer.

"We hold with confidence that as long as we wholeheartedly believe in our program and act accordingly, the days of the company unions on the railroad industry are numbered."

Bert M. Jewell was re-elected president. James M. Burns, international representative of the Sheet Metal Workers, was chosen secretary-treasurer.

Trade Unions Are the Best Instruments To Secure Labor's Industrial Rights

Berlin, Germany, July 10.—"The position of the workers in every country is dependent on the general level of political liberty than on the amount of influence they can bring to bear on conditions in the industrial world," declares Peter Grassman, deputy-president of the German Federation of Trade Union Center, in an article on the trade union movement and the eight-hour day written for the International Federation of Trade Unions.

"Valuable as the franchise may be, in that it enables the workers to vote in favor of social progress, lasting results in the application of this advanced legislation, are only to be obtained where the industrial organizations of the workers, the trade unions, are strong and continually able to exert pressure on the government and in favor of reforms.

"More often than not acts of parliament are merely the legal recognition of existing facts.

"This is particularly the case in the matter of the eight-hour day. When, after the war, a number of states gave more or less complete statutory recognition of the eight-hour day, it was less a question of political upheavals, or of reforms introduced through fear of possible upheavals, than of the necessity of legal recognition to gains already made by the trade unions.

Pointing out that the trade union movement has been the major resisting force since the war to the attempts of wholesale wage decreases and lengthening of the eight-hour day sought by the anti-labor reaction, Mr. Grassman continues:

"It would be superfluous to demonstrate once more the cultural value of the eight-hour day franchise may be, in that it enables the workers to vote in favor of social progress, lasting results in the application of this advanced legislation, are only to be obtained where the industrial organizations of the workers, the trade unions, are strong and continually able to exert pressure on the government and in favor of reforms.

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MEMORIAL TO GOMPERS PLANNED BY A. F. OF L.

Washington, July 10.—Plans to erect a monument at Washington in memory of the late Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor for 40 years, were discussed at the recent meeting of the executive council of the Federation.

The committee having the matter in charge will make a detailed report to the next meeting of the Executive Council and collection of funds for the monument will be undertaken.

CHICAGO FEDERATION WINS RADIO LICENSE

Washington, July 10.—The Department of Commerce has finally issued a broadcasting license to the Chicago Federation of Labor for a radio station established in a tower of the municipal pier in Chicago.

The Federation has been carrying on a fight for some time for the right to broadcast, the department having at first expressed a disinclination to grant the license. The Federation wins its case.

BERRES GOES ON PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEE BOARD

Washington, July 10.—The Commissioners of the District of Columbia have appointed A. F. Berres, international treasurer of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, to the board of trustees of the Public Library of the District of Columbia The appointment runs for six years.

Mr. Berres' appointment was recommended by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, and Dr. Bowerman, librarian of the Public Library.

This is the first time that organized labor has been represented on the library board of trustees.

President Perkins Is Not Candidate for Re-Election

Chicago, Ill., July 10.—George F. Perkins, president of the Cigarmakers' International Union for more than 25 years, announced that he will not be a candidate for re-election. Mr. Perkins is treasurer of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company, with headquarters at Washington, D. C.

Government Employes Get $280 Pension Increase

Washington, July 10.—One of the last acts of the late session of Congress was to pass the new increased monthly pensions for government employes from $720 per annum to $1,000. Congress wanted to make the maximum $1,200, but President Coolidge threatened to veto anything in excess of $1,000. The President won.

Child Laborites to Protect Constitution

New York, July 10.—The Sentinels of the Republic issued a "call to arms" to oppose the combined efforts of reformers and radicals who it is alleged are planning a final concentrated drive to jeopardy and threatening to "destroy the child labor amendment which already has ever known." The organization plans a series of district conferences throughout the United States to defend the Constitution.

The Sentinels of the Republic sprang into the limelight in 1924 when it virulently opposed the Child Labor Amendment to the United States Constitution. It claims to have been largely instrumental for the defeat of the amendment in the Massachusetts referendum.

British Government Responsible for General Strike; War Party Opened Hostilities

London, Eng., July 10.—Prominent members of the Conservative party agree with trade union officials in fixing responsibility for the recent general strike in the government which was forced upon the Trades Union Congress.

This opinion is voiced in an article on the strike by Lord Birkenhead, well known "tory-democrat," in the Fortnightly Review.

"Curio" claims the cabinet was split into a peace party led by Mr. Baldwin and Lord Birkenhead, and a war party led by Mr. Churchill and Mr. Chamberlain. The peace party, Lord Birkenhead group was defeated by Churchill and Chamberlain "at a critical stage of the negotiations, namely, the moment when peace or war trembled in the balance."

Declaring that a committee of the cabinet representing the peace party had secured from the Trades Union Congress an agreement for continued negotiation on a basis which required the consent of the officials of the miners' union, "Curio" gives the following account of how the industrial war was finally precipitated by the Churchill-Chamberlain combination.

"The miners' representatives could not be found immediately, and while the T. U. C. search for them was taking place, the party in the cabinet which was for an immediate fight seized control of the government and precipitated the crisis. They said (1) that notice for a general strike for Monday night had been issued and that this was tantamount to war. (2) That strikers had interfered with the publication of the British Gazette, the Conservative newspaper, and that hostilities had thus begun.

"On the above statement it is clear that advance notices of a strike are meant by more or less than advance notices of a lock-out given by the mine owners a fortnight before May 1. Such notices are merely the means by which to serve or precludе the continuance of negotiations up to zero hour.

"Moreover, the strike on the Daily Mail was an isolated and unauthorized incident which, as a matter of fact, was nothing to do with the T. U. C., who disowned it.

"When two great military powers are in negotiation over very grave matters and the issues of peace or war are in the balance, the most manifest danger is that some zealous subordinate will precipitate a frontier incident and that an exchange of shots will take place. But that is not what the cabinet meant to declare a war which otherwise might have been avoided. The answer may be left to the reason and conscience of humanity.

"The fact remains that whether it was a good or bad thing for the cabinet to accept the challenge of the T. U. C. over the general strike so readily, they did declare war not when all negotiations had manifestly failed, but over a 'frontier incident.'

"The fateful decision of the government for war was not in harmony with (1) the terms of the mandate with which it was charged with the negotiation, and it overrode the opinion of the prime minister."

"AMERICAN PLAN" SHOP IS ANTI-UNION WEAPON

Chicago, Ill., July 10.—"Masked under colorful designation of the 'American plan,' the open-shop movement is intended to be nothing more than a medium for undermining organized labor," asserts the International Steam Engineer, the official journal of the International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers, in an editorial in which the opponents of organization are condemned for trying to destroy the very heart of unionism.

"Behind the glamour and sophistry that surrounds it, the open-shop movement appears simply as an organized scheme by the wealthy men of the country back to the condition of employment that made possible the days when each individual worker fought his own unsupported battle against a powerful and often obdurate employing class.

"It was an unequal struggle then, and it would be an unequal struggle now, from which the worker would stand no chance of emerging with a whole hide.

"Organized labor is determined that the sinister purpose of the open-shop drive shall not succeed. That purpose is contrary to every principle of industrial justice and public sentiment in this country.

"The things which the forces of unionism have won they mean to maintain. The world is going forward, not backward. No reactionary force, however well organized and equipped, or how skillfully handled, will ever be able permanently to undermine the foundation upon which the industrial liberties of the working population in this country are built."

Sheet Metal Workers to Act on Jurisdiction Agreement Covering 20-Year-Old Dispute

Washington, July 10.—A special meeting of the general executive board of the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association has been called for next month at the association's headquarters here on July 12 to take action on the proposed agreement to settle the 20-year-old jurisdiction dispute in the building industries between the association and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, the proposed agreement, which was signed by executive officials of both organizations in Indianapolis on May 27, requires ratification by the executive boards of both organization. Early in June the carpenters' board ratified the agreement. It still requires the approval of the Sheet Metal Workers' executive board to become effective.

The officers of the Sheet Metal Workers have invited representatives of 150 local unions in the United States and Canada to a conference.

Under the proposed agreement metal work in building construction work will be divided between the two unions.

Out-of-Work Funds Must Pay U. S. Tax

Washington, July 10.—Unemployment insurance funds must pay a Federal income tax, according to a ruling handed down by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The Federal income tax law exempts the funds of religious, charitable, scientific, literary and educational associations. The question was raised as to funds contributed by members of an organization to a common fund to be applied to the relief of the particular members of the organization when in sickness, want, or other disability. It is held that "such fund," and clearly does not come under the other exempted categories.

Oil Workers Plan 8-Hour-Day Drive

Bakersfield, Calif., July 10.—The biennial convention of the Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers of America decided to carry on intensive organization work in Wyoming, Texas, Arkansas, Ohio and Oklahoma, where certain fields are being operated under the 12-hour day. A letter from William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, pledged the support of that organization to the oil workers in their efforts to extend the 8-hour day and secure a fair wage.

The convention elected Harry C. Fleming to the office of president and re-elected J. L. Coulter as secretary-treasurer.

Anti-Union Employers Hurt Textile Industry; Refuse Cooperation of Organized Employes

New York, July 10.—"The workers sincerely desire to cooperate with the employers for the betterment of the industry," declares Thomas F. McMahon, president of the United Textile Workers of America, in an article in the Textile World on the condition of the textile industry. "If this were but normal, and if the employers generally showed such an inclination, splendid results would be obtained. The employers' progress in not spending his energy and his money maintaining a group of parasites as spies for the purpose of watching and reporting the action of the workers, but to spend such energy in the interest of business in the United States. They are successful. The worker is confident of his employer's honesty, while the employer has faith and trust in the honesty and fairness of his workers, and is willing to meet them on fair and square dealing."

Fifteen Billion Dollar Railroad Valuation Case Argued Before Commerce Commission

Washington, July 10.—The 15-billion-dollar railroad valuation case is now definitely before the Interstate Commerce Commission, counsel for both sides having presented their arguments.

Railroad owners contend that the valuation should be based on the "reconstruction cost" at present high prices. The national conference on valuation of railroads insists that the valuation should be based on the money prudently invested in the railroads.

Should the railroad owners win, 15 billion dollars will be added to the present valuation used by the Interstate Commerce Commission in fixing railroad rates, and future rates will be fixed to yield a "fair return" on 15 billion dollars instead of 20 billion as at present.

The commission will probably not decide the case will go to the Federal courts.

Commodity Theory of Human Labor Power Denounced as Neither Human Nor Christian

Cambridge, Eng., July 10.—The persistence which British die-hard employers, businessmen, and economic economists manifest in attempting to treat human labor as a commodity, brings emphatic condemnation from Dr. Cosmo Gordon Simpson, an eminent member of the staff of Westminster Theological College here, in an article in the British Weekly on the cost of labor.

"Take what we call 'labor,'" says Prof. Simpson. "We easily think of labor simply in terms of money—as a kind of commodity—the only question about which is what it costs in the market.

"But this is not a true or human view of it. It is a Christian view—of what labor is. Indeed (where human labor is concerned) it is not in the least a mere 'labor'; that is to say, there is no such mere commodity. There are men who labor, and labor is men.

"It is not a commodity. It is people's lives that we express it only in terms of, dividends and profits and wages, you forget this, for people's lives can not be measured thus."

In defending the die-hard employers' contention that labor is a commodity, the writer of a letter in the London Times quoted sentences from Edmund Burke, who says that the "impossibility of the subsistence of a man who has his labor to sell is a totally different matter from the question," for "the only question is what is it worth to the buyer?"

Prof. Simpson asserts that the quotation from Burke is a commonplace of the Christian way of putting it. Where labor means love it means service, and what it is worth to the buyer can never be the Christian standard, the only question. There is and there must be also a question of what is 'right' toward human lives.

"The conviction of this has gradually become more and more clear and constraining for the conscience of our day. Its finest expression in the formula that the first charge on industry should be a 'living wage' to the worker.

"That 'living wage' is often used inadequately as meaning no more than bare subsistence, but such thinking as here 'labor': that is to say, there is no such mere commodity. There are men who labor, and labor is men.

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